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**VIRGINIA SELECTED BY CDC TO RECEIVE INJURY
PREVENTION FUNDING**

(Richmond, Va.)—To support injury prevention and control efforts, the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Center for Injury and Violence Prevention will receive \$600,000 over a five-year period from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The funding was awarded to enable Virginia to strengthen its injury and violence prevention and control programs and activities.

Injury is the leading killer of Virginians ages 1 to 44. Approximately 3,900 Virginians died as a result of injury during 2003. The majority of these deaths were the result of unintentional injuries such as motor vehicle crashes, poisonings, suffocation, recreational injuries, and falls among seniors. In addition, injuries represent a substantial burden on our health care system, costing more than \$567 million in 2003.

"We are very pleased to receive this award to support injury prevention programs in Virginia," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. "Continuing to build upon our progress, gaining new knowledge and reaching out to partners in our community are all vital steps toward our goals of making our families and children safer and healthier and reducing the impact of injuries in the Commonwealth."

In addition to strengthening the essential infrastructure of statewide injury prevention, the award is intended to help Virginia formalize its injury prevention coalition with partners from academic, nonprofit, state government, private, professional and faith-based organizations dedicated to reducing injury in Virginia.

The funds from this grant will also support the development of a statewide injury prevention plan to address the leading causes of injury-related hospitalizations and deaths in Virginia. This plan will catalog current injury prevention activities and resources, and will direct future injury prevention plans.

"We know that injuries and disabilities can be prevented and we can save lives. These grants are just one vital way that we are actively supporting states so that they can develop effective injury prevention plans and programs for their communities," said Dr. Ileana Arias, director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. "Change can happen when we unite and share our commitment to reduce the pain and suffering caused by preventable injuries."

To learn more about Virginia Department of Health's Center for Injury and Violence prevention visit www.vahealth.org/civp or call (800) 732-8333. For more information on injury and violence prevention and control data, programs or activities, as well as information about traumatic brain injury, log on to www.cdc.gov/injury.

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